



ASSEMBLYMEMBER NICOLE PARRA

Representing the 30th Assembly District



Parra Notes

June 23, 2006

Hello Friends:

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHT

The really special part of my week came when I secured the passage of **AB 2645**, also known as **Esmeralda's Law**, from the **Senate Education Committee** by a vote of 8-0. **AB 2645** clarifies existing law by noting that students are allowed to wear hats during their physical education courses as protection from sun overexposure, a leading factor in skin cancer incidences.

Earlier this year, I visited **John Muir Middle School** in **Corcoran**. During a meeting with **Ms. Celeste Cook's 6th grade class**, the students made a presentation on skin cancer and requested that clarification be made to current statute – **SB 1632 (Billy's Law, 2002) by Senator Don Perata** – to emphasize that hats, not only sunscreen, can be used by students, at school, without a doctor's note or parental permission. The students were inspired after learning about the tragic death of **Esmeralda Perez**, who died last December, at the age of 20, from skin cancer. Esmeralda is the daughter of Lillian Perez, a teacher and literacy coach at **Corcoran's John C. Fremont Elementary School**. **Lillian Perez**, has been working closely with the students at **John Muir** to educate parents and students about skin cancer prevention.

Following the passage of the bill, I had a great lunch meeting with **Lillian Perez, Celeste Cook** and her husband, **Raymond Cook, John Muir students Kelly Trujillo and Katlin Davis**, and their mothers, **Lisa and Maggie**, respectively.

These students really should be commended for the tremendous effort they exhibited in isolating a problem and finding a solution to that problem. I know they are excited about their work and the success of this bill at every step of the legislative process, and I look forward to continuing to push this legislation along.

AB 2645 will next be heard on the **Senate Floor**.

NOW, TO THE REST OF MY WEEK IN SACRAMENTO

I started out the week by presenting two of my bills in the **Senate Public Safety Committee**.

The first bill, **AB 2272**, passed from the committee by a vote of 4-1. **AB 2272** would extend the amount of prior notice individuals applying for a writ of habeas corpus must give to district attorneys in the county where an offense was prosecuted.

Anytime we are faced with the potential of a criminal getting back on our streets, we need to be prepared. It is important that district attorneys are granted this extended notice so they have the time to fully review any application for a writ of habeas corpus. We cannot allow for even the slightest error or oversight to happen in these types of cases.

AB 2272, which is supported by **Crime Victims United of California**, now moves to the Senate Floor.

The other bill, **AB 2586**, made it out of the **Public Safety Committee** by a vote of 6-0. **AB 2586** would provide that if a person is convicted of a criminal offense and alleges that he or she committed the offense as a result of post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, or psychological problems stemming from service in combat in the **United States military**, the court shall hold a hearing prior to sentencing to make a determination about that allegation.

Our veterans are a select group of individuals that share the unique bond of having fought on behalf of this nation. Given their tremendous sacrifices, it is important that we closely evaluate any unique circumstances that arise when applying the letter of the law.

AB 2586 is sponsored by the **Armed Forces Retirees Association of America** and co-sponsored by **Vietnam Veterans of America**. This bill is also supported by the **National Guard Association of California**; the **California Association of Veterans Service Officers**; the **California State Commanders Veterans Council**; the **California Society of Addiction Medicine**; the **Air Force Sergeant's Association**; the **Military Order of the Purple Heart**; the **Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America**; the **Marine Corps League**; and the **Legion of Valor**. This bill will next be heard on the Senate Floor.

I also had the opportunity to sit down with representatives from the **California Real Safety Coalition**. This organization is working to heighten awareness on the issue of watching sex offenders. Sex offenders are required to register themselves on the **Megan's Law Database**; however, no real surveillance is maintained over them. It is the goal of the **Real Safety Coalition** to create a strategy whereby sex offenders can be closely monitored for a significant period of time following their release into our communities. This is a great organization and I am in support of their initiatives, because it is critical that we do everything we can to protect our children and keep our communities safe.

The **Real Safety Coalition** is a joint project underwritten by the **California Correctional Peace Officers Association (CCPOA)** and the **National Association to Protect Children (PROTECT)**. For more information on either of these organizations, please visit their web sites at www.ccpoanet.org/ and www.protect.org/.

Toward the middle of the week, I attended a luncheon, held at the **State Capitol**, with participants in this year's **Women in Politics Program**, which seeks to teach students about public policy and political issues as they relate to **California**.

This is a fantastic program, because it provides a very accurate glimpse of the hustle and bustle of state politics for these young women. It is great to see so many young people interested in politics. I encourage them to learn more and to stay involved, because public service will always need energetic and motivated people in its ranks.

For this year's program, I named **Mary Clare Navalta**, from **Delano High School**, and **Emily Trujillo**, of **Hanford West High School**, as the **30th Assembly District's representatives**. Altogether, forty young women, between the ages of 14 and 18, arrived in Sacramento this week to explore public policy, political issues, and political processes as part of the **Women in Politics Program**, which is sponsored by the non-profit **California Center**. The group took part in a series of interactive meetings with professionals from the legislative and executive branches, lobbying groups, and the media. Participants also analyzed different perspectives on a variety of statewide issues and held simulated legislative hearings. Upon returning home, participants are strongly urged to compose reports and generate discussions as a way of educating their fellow students and constituents.

To learn more about the **California Center** and the programs it offers, please call **(916) 443-2229** or visit their web site at www.californiacenter.org

Also this week, I spent some time meeting with students as part of the **69th Session of The American Legion California Golden Boys State**, which is being held in **Sacramento** this week, on the campus of **California State University, Sacramento**.

Boys State is an educational program that allows students to learn about government through the creation of a

simulated state government, which students administer. It is a fabulous program that gives a number of great insights to these students. It is also amazing to see how many students participate and the level of enthusiasm they exhibit during their time in **Sacramento**.

To find out more about **Boys State**, please visit the following informational web site
<http://www.calegion.org/pdf/B-BS04.pdf>

Earlier today, I presented special awards to ten women, from the **30th Assembly District**, as part of a ceremony honoring **“Leading Ladies” in the Central Valley**.

Today’s event is a celebration of the tremendous sacrifices and contributions made by women in the Central Valley. I was honored to be in the company of such an exceptional group of women, whose actions always place others before themselves. Today’s honorees are public servants in the truest sense, because they continually give of themselves for the benefit and improvement of their communities.

The following individuals were recognized for their community service efforts and achievements:

- **Leonor Lopez** – Lamont, Labor Union Community Liaison
- **Manuela Ortega** – Arvin, Valley Fever and Education Advocate
- **Yolanda Martinez** – Shafter, Teacher and Literacy Advocate
- **Linda Hilton** – Delano, Community Advocate
- **Essie Blue** – Bakersfield, Executive Director, 4th Street Senior Center
- **Cloete Daniels** – Bakersfield, Project Coordinator, Community Event in the African-American Community and Project Butterfly
- **Mary Pritchard** – Bakersfield, Korean War and World War II Veteran
- **Jan Hummel** – Wasco, Teacher
- **Jean Flores** – Delano, Community Advocate
- **Barbara Patrick** – Supervisor, Kern County Board of Supervisors

This is the **1st Annual Garden Tea Party for the 30th Assembly District**. Supporters of the event include **State Farm Insurance**; **Ben Sacco of the Sierra Recycling Center**; Attorney Milt Younger of Chain, Younger, Cohn, and Stiles Law; the Kern Oil Refinery; **Attorney Daniel Rodriguez and Associates**; **Pelican Group Realty**; and **J.R. Hestor of Friggie’s Sportswear**. Award recipients were selected based on their records of community service and involvement. Thanks to all of you for your tremendous support!

On Saturday, I will be receiving the **Legislator of the Year Award** at the **88th Annual American Legion Department of California Convention**, held at the **Fresno Convention Center**.

Our veterans have fought for us in every corner of the world. The sacrifices they have made are extraordinary and I will always be in their corner. I am honored to receive this award and look forward to continuing my work on behalf of California’s veteran community.

As a **former Chair of the Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs**, I am proud to be authoring the following veterans legislation this year:

- **AB 2085**, which would ensure more returning military servicemen and women are given assistance through the Military Family Relief Fund. If returning military personnel experience a drop in income of 10% or more from the amount received prior to deployment, they will be eligible for grants through this fund. Current disbursement of these funds is contingent on a 30% or greater loss of income.
- **AB 2586**, which updates current law to allow all veterans convicted of a crime, as opposed to only Vietnam Veterans, who have been diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) to be diverted into treatment programs as opposed to being incarcerated, only when certain criteria are met and at the discretion of the presiding Judge.

In the past, my work on military and veterans affairs has been recognized by the **California National Guard**,

which presented me with its **highest civilian honor, The Order of California Public Service Award (2003)**, and by the **California Association of County Veteran Service Officers (CVSO)**, which named me as its **Legislator of the Year in 2004**.

HELPFUL LINKS

Operation Hero Miles

<http://www.heromiles.org/>

Care Packages for Soldiers

<http://anysoldier.com/>

County Information:

Fresno

<http://www.co.fresno.ca.us/portal/>

Kings

<http://www.countyofkings.com/>

Kern

<http://www.co.kern.ca.us/>

Tulare

<http://www.co.tulare.ca.us/>

City Information:

Coalinga

www.coalinga.com

Kingsburg

www.cityofkingsburg-ca.gov/

Corcoran

<http://www.cityofcorcoran.com/>

Lemoore

<http://www.lemoore.com/>

Bakersfield

<http://www.bakersfieldcity.us/>

McFarland

<http://www.mcfarlandcity.org/>

Huron

www.fresnocog.org/city1/city_of_huron.htm

Avenal

<http://www.avenalcalifornia.com/>

Hanford

<http://www.ci.hanford.ca.us/>

Arvin

<http://www.arvin.org/>

Delano

<http://www.delano-ca.org/default.htm>

Shafter

<http://www.shafter.com/>

Wasco

<http://www.ci.wasco.ca.us/>

NEED HOMEWORK HELP?

The **California State Library** has made available through their website a new service called **Live Homework Help**. This service enables students to connect on-line with a tutor for assistance with homework questions. Supported by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) federal funding, students can access Live Homework Help through [28 California public libraries](#). It is important to note that the tutors who respond to student questions are screened, trained, and closely monitored.

Live Homework Help is easy! Log on to <http://www.library.ca.gov/tutor/> from your computer any time between 1:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. and follow the simple setup instructions.

MEETING REQUESTS

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Anna Goddard** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Anna.Goddard@asm.ca.gov.

INTERNS WANTED

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at

Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov.

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Paula DeLaRiva** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at Paula.DeLaRiva@asm.ca.gov.

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov.

ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1700: Russia gave up its Black Sea fleet as part of a truce with the Ottoman Empire.

1836: The U.S. Congress approved the Deposit Act, which contained a provision for turning over surplus federal revenue to the states.

1860: The U.S. Secret Service was created to arrest counterfeiters.

1902: Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy renewed the Triple Alliance.

1947: The U.S. Senate joined the House in overriding President Truman's veto of the Taft-Hartley Act.

1972: U.S. President Nixon and White House chief of staff H.R. Haldeman discussed a plan to use the CIA to obstruct the FBI's Watergate investigation.

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